

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235461

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

TOSEC 137

FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, OCT 24, FROM CAIRO RPTD
TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8434

STADIS

DEPT FOR SAUNDERS

DEPT PLEASE PASS MOSCOW-FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN EG

SUBJ: JOINT ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP: FCN TREATY

1. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT GOE WOULD CONSIDER NEGOTIATION
OF AN FCN TREATY WITH USG PREMATURE FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:
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(A) AS DEPT NOTES, IT WOULD PUT GOE OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER

ARAB STATES, (B) INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS AS YET BEEN MADE ON SETTLEMENT ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM AND ON US ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT TO WARRANT TAKING POLITICAL RISK OF SIGNING SUCH AGREEMENT, (C) IT WOULD GIVE UNNECESSARY OFFENSE TO SOVIETS AT A TIME WHEN BREZHNEV HAS FINALLY AGREED TO VISIT CAIRO AND EGYPTIANS ARE SALIVATING AT PROSPECTS SOVIET AID MAY BEFORE LONG BE RESUMED, (D) ADVERSE REACTION OTHER NON-ALIGNED STATES. IN ANY CASE, SADAT HAS REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, THAT HIS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USG HAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT ANY WRITTEN AGREEMENT.

2. WHILE I LIKE TO HAVE FCN CONCLUDED WITH EGYPT, I BELIEVE JOINT ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP IS THE WRONG PLACE TO FLOAT SUCH AN IDEA. THERE WILL BE TOO MANY EGYPTIAN BUREAUCRATS AT THE MEETING WHO WILL KNOW ABOUT IT AND SPREAD THE WORD. THIS WILL BE UNHELPFUL TO SADAT.

3. IN MY JUDGMENT, GIVEN POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF SUCH AN FCN TREATY PROPOSAL, SUBJECT SHOULD FIRST BE INFORMALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY EXPLORED WITH FAHMY AND THE PRESIDENT TO GET THEIR REACTION. WHATEVER ECONOMIC BENEFITS FCN TREATY WOULD GIVE EGYPT, AND I THINK WE HAVE TO BE CANDID AND ADMIT THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE LIMITED, THE SYMBOLISM OF NEGOTIATING SUCH A TREATY NOW OR ANY TIME IS POLITICAL AND SHOULD BE HANDLED IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT. THE EGYPTIAN BEAURCRACY SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE ACT ONLY RPT ONLY AFTER A HIGH LEVEL GOE POLITICAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO GO AHEAD. I RECOGNIZE WE ARE TRYING TO FIND POSITIVE THINGS FOR UPCOMING JOINT ECONOMIC MEETING TO DO, BUT SOMETHING SUCH AS SENSITIVE AS THIS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ONE OF THEM. EILTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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